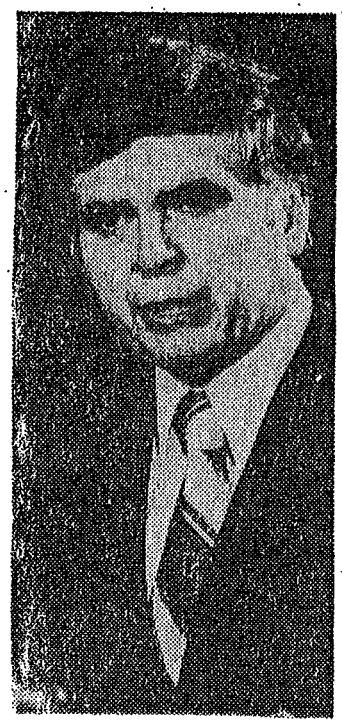

REP. AL ULLMAN
... got favored treatment

$20 Million for Mercenaries Reported

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writers

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld yesterday refused to deny British reports that more than $20 million, mainly from the Central Intelligence Agency, is to be spent on mercenaries for Angola.

Two British newspapers said recruiting of British mercenaries to join factions fighting the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was being financed with American money.

"There has been what was once a covert activity on the part of the United States involving some funds to provide assistance to an element in the Angola conflict," said Rumsfeld, appearing on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP). When pressed on whether $20 million was being used to train British mercenaries, Rumsfeld said he "wouldn't go into details."

The British Sunday Telegraph quoted diplomatic sources in Zaire as saying that $200,000 in U.S. money for the Western-backed National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) had been sent to London for use in recruiting mercenaries. The paper said at least 300 Britons were joining the FNLA.

It added the CIA had allocated $49.2 million in arms, other supplies and cash to the FNLA and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and that more authorized money was in the pipeline.

The Ford administration has admitted spending about $33 million in Angola. Recently Congress defeated an attempt to send $28 million more through the Defense appropriation bill.

Another British paper, the Observer, quoted a spokesman for Security Advisory Services as saying the recruiting of British mercenaries was being financed with American money. The SAS, which is doing the recruiting, received $564,000 in the past three weeks, the spokesman was quoted.

The Observer said the SAS spokesman claimed the group's contact was a liaison officer in the American embassy in London. An embassy spokesman denied it.

Rumsfeld said that the Soviet Union and Cuba have put $3 billion into Africa to gain bases, ports, other facilities and governments favorable to them. "Our interest is served if it's a continent with governments of their (Africans') preference rather than of the Soviets' preference."

Rumsfeld said further cuts in the defense budget could create an unstable world and a "lack of sufficiency" for the United States vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. If Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) fail, Rumsfeld said he might have to go back to Congress to seek a supplement to the proposed $112 billion defense budget. He also said no Soviet violations of SALT agreements already in effect have been a threat to U.S. security.

DONALD RUMSFELD
...refuses to deny reports